

Message Text

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63

ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 AF-06 EUR-12

IO-10 H-02 PRS-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 PM-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00 /074 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER
APPROVED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER
S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
NEA/IRN - MR. KORN
AF MRS. RUSSELL
SS: SRGAMMON

----- 021111

O 302357Z DEC 74 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL DORADO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD

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TOSEC 81

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING DECEMBER 30,
1974:

QUOTE: Q. LET ME ASK YOU WHAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT
REACTION IS TO THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE BREZHNEV VISIT TO
CAIRO.

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT.

Q. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE MADE IT
CLEAR TO MR. KISSINGER DURING ALLON'S LAST TRIP THAT THEY
WOULD NOT NEGOTIATE UNDER THE THREAT OF AN IMPENDING
VISIT, DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT FEEL THAT KISSINGER HAS
A RENEWED OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS FOR SETTLEMENT NOW?

A. WELL, LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY. I THINK THE SECRETARY
HAS CONSISTENTLY FELT AND HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT
PROGRESS WAS STILL POSSIBLE, FOLLOWING A STEP-BY-STEP
APPROACH.

Q. DOES THIS CHANGE HIS SCHEDULE AT ALL?

A. WELL, I AM NOT DISCUSSING -- AS I SAID, I REALLY
DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE VISIT
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TO CAIRO. I DON'T WANT TO RELATE ONE THING TO THE OTHER;
BECAUSE THAT MIGHT BE MISLEADING.

Q. BUT THEY HAVE BEEN RELATED BY THE ISRAELIS, WHO ARE
A MAJOR PARTY TO THE NEGOTIATION.

A. WELL, LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY. ALL ALONG I THINK, AND
FOLLOWING THE VISIT OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALLON, IT

WAS THOUGHT THAT THERE WOULD BE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. AND THAT CERTAINLY HAS NOT CHANGED.

Q. PAUL, IS HE STILL DUE HERE ON THE 10TH -- MR. ALLON?

A. I DON'T HAVE A DATE TO ANNOUNCE TO YOU.

Q. WELL, HAS THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE IN HIS UNANNOUNCED DATE?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY CHANGES.

Q. PAUL, SINCE THESE STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE DEPARTMENT, AND THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID THAT HE IS WORRIED ABOUT THE RENEWAL OF WAR, WHICH HE HAS SAID A NUMBER OF TIMES, BUT BY REPETITION IT GETS TO BE A LITTLE MORE OMINOUS. NOW BREZHNEV HAS POSTPONED HIS VISIT. IS THERE GOING TO BE ANY STEP-UP IN THE AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC TIMETABLE? AFTER ALL, THE UNITED STATES IS ACTING AS THE GO-BETWEEN.

A. WELL, LOOK, I THINK I WOULD TAKE EXCEPTION TO THE WAY IN WHICH YOU HAVE PHRASED YOUR QUESTION. AND THAT IS THAT WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR ALL ALONG THAT WE WERE FULLY COMMITTED AND FULLY ENGAGED TO ANY EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT SOME SORT OF SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. BUT, PAUL, IT IS IN THE CONTEXT OF OFFICIALS IN THIS BUILDING HAVING SAID ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS -- OFF THE RECORD THEY HAVE SAID IT OR ON BACKGROUND THEY HAVE SAID IT -- THERE IS NO POINT IN THE SECRETARY GOING TO THE MIDDLE EAST BEFORE A BREZHNEV VISIT. AND SINCE THERE IS NOW NOT TO BE A BREZHNEV VISIT, IT SEEMS REASON-
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ABLE THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME QUESTION THAT THE SCHEDULE MIGHT BE CHANGED.

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO ANNOUNCE WITH RESPECT TO THE SECRETARY'S TRAVELS AT THIS TIME.

Q. PAUL, DOES THE SECRETARY'S STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT STAND APART FROM ANY POSSIBLE VISITS BY BREZHNEV TO CAIRO AT ANY FUTURE DATE? ARE YOU SAYING THAT HIS STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH EXISTS ISOLATED FROM THE AT FIRST ANNOUNCED AND NOW POSTPONED VISIT? ARE YOU SAYING IT HAS NO IMPACT ON A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH?

A. I AM SAYING I AM NOT HAVING ANY COMMENT ON THE POST-PONEMENT OF THE VISIT. I AM SIMPLY LAYING OUT TO YOU

WHAT OUR POSITION HAS BEEN ALL ALONG.

Q. WELL, OBVIOUSLY, YOU KNOW, YOU ACT WITH INSTRUCTIONS WHEN YOU HAVE NO COMMENT. AND YOU ALSO ACT WITH INSTRUCTION WHEN YOU HAUL OUT THE OLD COMMENT THAT HE HAS CONSISTENTLY FELT STEP-BY-STEP PROGRESS WAS STILL POSSIBLE. NOW, THE QUESTION, IS, IF YOU SAY THAT, AFTER THE VISIT HAS BEEN POSTPONED, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO THE QUESTION WHAT THE POSTPONEMENT DOES TO THAT STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH, OR ELSE YOU ARE SAYING IT IS IMMATERIAL.

A. WELL, I FAIL TO SEE PRECISELY WHAT THE QUESTION IS.

Q. THE QUESTION IS -- IS THE POSTPONEMENT MATERIAL TO THE SECRETARY'S STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH OR NOT?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT.

Q. ARE YOU MORE HOPEFUL NOW TO GET A SECOND STAGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY COMMENT.

Q. ARE YOU HOPEFUL OF GETTING -- ARE YOU HOPEFUL THAT THE NEXT STEP CAN BE TAKEN IN THIS APPROACH?
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A. I WILL SIMPLY REFER BACK TO WHAT WE HAVE SAID AND WHAT THE SECRETARY HAS SAID ABOUT OUR APPROACH AND OUR EFFORTS.

Q. YES. BUT YOU USED THE PAST TENSE -- THAT THE SECRETARY HAS CONSISTENTLY FELT PROGRESS WAS STILL POSSIBLE. IS PROGRESS STILL POSSIBLE?

A. WELL, WE HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT PROGRESS WAS STILL POSSIBLE, YES.

Q. DO YOU FEEL TODAY THAT PROGRESS IS STILL POSSIBLE?

A. WE HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT, AND THAT REMAINS OUR POSITION.

Q. PAUL, HAS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BEEN INFORMED DIRECTLY BY EITHER THE SOVIET UNION, EGYPT OR BOTH OF THIS CANCELLATION?

A. LET ME CHECK.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS - OFFICIALLY AND FORMALLY.

A. LET ME CHECK.

Q. MR. HARE, COULD YOU SAY WHETHER OR CAN THE DEPARTMENT SAY WHETHER THERE IS ANY INDICATION OF THIS, IN THIS ACTION, THAT THE SOVIETS ARE CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS DETENTE AND ARE IMPOSING THE KIND OF RESTRAINT THAT WE HAVE ASKED NATIONS TO IMPOSE IN THIS AREA TO AVOID WAR?

A. I APPRECIATE THE INDIRECTION OF YOUR QUESTION, BUT I SIMPLY DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT.

Q. PAUL, WILL THE SECRETARY CONSIDER A TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST BEFORE MR. BREZHNEV MAKES A TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I JUST SAID I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO ANNOUNCE WITH RESPECT TO THE SECRETARY'S TRAVELS TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

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Q. YES. I DIDN'T ASK YOU FOR THE DATE. I ASKED YOU IF HE CAN CONSIDER A TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST BEFORE MR. BREZHNEV COMPLETES A TRIP TO CAIRO.

A. I JUST DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO ANNOUNCE TODAY.

Q. WILL THE UNITED STATES RELAX NOW ITS EFFORTS TO GET ANOTHER SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I THINK IT SHOULD BE PRETTY CLEAR TO YOU THAT I AM NOT HAVING ANY COMMENT ON THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE VISIT, AND I DON'T THINK I HAVE ANYTHING ELSE THAT REALLY IS USEFUL TO YOU.

Q. JACK ANDERSON THIS MORNING CLAIMS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS ASKED ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW "SIX LOUSY KILO-

METERS." CAN YOU CLARIFY TO US WHERE ISRAEL WAS SUPPOSED TO WITHDRAW -- IN THE GOLAN OR JORDAN OR SINAI?

A. NO. I GUESS I'M IN VERY MUCH OF A NO-COMMENT SITUATION TODAY. BUT I AM NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT STORY.

Q. PAUL, CAN WE ASSUME WHILE THE SECRETARY IS VACATIONING HE IS TRAINING HIS ATTENTION ON THESE VARIOUS MATTERS YOU HAVE NO COMMENT ON?

A. WELL, I THINK HIS NORMAL WORKING HABITS ARE BEING

FOLLOWED DURING HIS VACATION AS WELL. HE IS CERTAINLY
IN TOUCH WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT. END QUOTE. SISCO

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